

**To:** all.families@stpaulschool.ca  
**Cc:** staff@stpaulschool.ca; Parish St. Paul (Richmond)  
**Subject:** Thursday Letter



Dear Parents,

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. With a busy calendar full of family, personal, and professional obligations each December, it is very easy to become distracted and ultimately off course with what is meant to be a time of patient waiting and expectancy. The weekly themes of *Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love* serve as a time of reflection, anticipation, and preparation for the birth of Jesus. Sharing and celebrating Advent with each other allows the frenetic pace to subside, and our hearts to be filled with the true spirit of the season, fostering a sense of hope in the midst of the holiday rush. The staff of St. Paul School wishes all our families the same opportunity to find joy in preparing for the celebration of His birth, and anticipation of His return.

*Be ready and watchful, for the light of the world has come, and will surely come again.*

Yours in faith,

Maureen Griffin  
Principal



***Hope. Peace. Joy. Love.***



**School Mass** – Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. Gr. 2 to lead. 9:15 am in the church.

**Assembly** – Tomorrow. Gr. 1 & 5 to lead. 9:00 am in the gym.

**Blessing of Classroom Advent Wreaths** – will take place tomorrow during assembly.

**Next week's Assembly** – Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> – Gr. 7 and K to lead. 9:00 am in the gym.

**Hot Lunch** – Tomorrow – Fukuroku. Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> – Yummy Pasta. Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> – Canella.

**Volleyball Schedule** - see PE blog.

**Save the Date!** – Our Christmas Concert will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. We will have two performances – 1:00 pm matinee and a 6:45 pm evening show. More details to come!

**Please use the Crosswalk** - If you park on the church side of the front parking lot, please ensure you cross at the **designated crosswalk** to make your way to the covered area. Between the drop off lane and parishioners leaving after Mass lets out, it can be a very busy traffic area.

**Follow us on Instagram!** - st.paul.school.richmond.

**2023/2024 School Calendar** - This year's online calendar has been updated. If you are looking for professional days, dates for school holidays, etc., our online calendar is updated to June 2024. The calendar can be accessed through the school website at [www.stpaulschool.com](http://www.stpaulschool.com).

**If your child will be away** – A reminder to please email the office and the teacher if your child is sick. This needs to be done each day your child is away, and please email before 8:30 AM. Thank you.

**Late Arrivals to School** – Please note that **instruction in the classroom begins at 8:45 AM**. We have a number of students arriving late to school on a daily basis, so we ask our families to make an effort to have your child arrive to school in time to be settled in the classroom by 8:45 and ready to learn. Thank you.

**Rainy Days** – Like last year, we will continue with students going outside for recess, **regardless of inclement weather**. A reminder to ensure your child is dressed for the possibility of wet weather every day, as they go outside for recess rain or shine. Extra socks are handy to have in the backpack.



**When Parents Have Concerns** – If at any time you have a concern regarding your child, a school event, a staff member, or an incident that happened, we ask that you please come and speak with your child’s teacher. The only way that concerns can be effectively resolved is through open communication between home and school, resulting in accurate information being shared, and an informed understanding of your concern.

**Planning the school year?** –If you are looking for professional days, dates for school holidays, etc., our online calendar is updated to June 2021. The calendar can be accessed through the school website at [www.stpaulschool.ca](http://www.stpaulschool.ca).

**When your Child is Sick** – In anticipation of cold and flu season, we’d like to remind parents to be prudent when it comes to deciding when to keep your child home, or when to send him/her to school if he/she has just recovered from being ill. Some basic guidelines are as follows: 24 hours after temperature returns to normal, or after gastrointestinal illness (vomiting/diarrhea); contagious infections such as suspected pink eye or strep throat; unexplained skin rash; severe cough and cold symptoms. Exercising proper hand washing techniques is also crucial to helping prevent the spread of viruses. This will go a long way to keep our student and staff population happy and at school.

**Birthday Celebrations** – If you wish to have your child share a special treat with the class on his/her birthday, you are welcome to send **a small allergen-free treat** that the teacher can hand out at the end of the day. We now have **30 students** who carry Epi-Pens for food-related allergies, so all treats must be free of allergens according to our school policy on anaphylaxis. Please help us keep all our students safe.

St. Paul School acknowledges that the land on which we work, learn, and play is the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), and Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) Nations.



FIRST SUNDAY

OF

*Advent*